

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP03/12393

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
Int.Cl⁷ G11B7/24, 7/26

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
Int.Cl⁷ G11B7/24, 7/26Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1922-1996 Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1994-2004
Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1971-2004 Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho 1996-2004

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	JP 10-289489 A (Sony Corp.), 27 October, 1998 (27.10.98), Full text; all drawings (Family: none)	1,3,6,9, 12-15,20
Y		4,5,8,10,16, 18,19,21,23
A		2,7,11,17, 22
Y	JP 64-17231 A (Hitachi, Ltd.), 20 January, 1989 (20.01.89), Full text; all drawings (Family: none)	4,5,8,21 1-3,6,7, 9-20,22-24
A		
Y	JP 4-103365 U (Ricoh Co., Ltd.), 07 September, 1992 (07.09.92), Full text; all drawings (Family: none)	10 1-9,11-24
A		

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family
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Date of the actual completion of the international search 03 February, 2004 (03.02.04)	Date of mailing of the international search report 17 February, 2004 (17.02.04)
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Japanese Patent Office	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y A	WO 01/59781 A1 (Sony Corp.), 16 August, 2001 (16.08.01), Figs. 16 to 20 & CN 1365493 T	16 1-15, 17-24
Y A	JP 10-275366 A (Sharp Corp.), 13 October, 1998 (13.10.98), Full text; all drawings (Family: none)	18 1-17, 19-24
Y A	JP 7-302439 A (Shin-Etsu Chemical Co., Ltd.), 14 November, 1995 (14.11.95), Full text; all drawings (Family: none)	19 1-18, 20-24
Y A	JP 1-211342 A (Victor Company Of Japan, Ltd.), 24 August, 1989 (24.08.89), Fig. 3(f) (Family: none)	23 1-22, 24
A	JP 63-136373 A (Hitachi Maxell, Ltd.), 08 June, 1988 (08.06.88), Full text; all drawings (Family: none)	1-24

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Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

An optical information recording medium, comprising a substrate having a signal surface formed on one surface thereof and a center hole, a blocking sheet disposed so as to be flush with the signal surface of the signal substrate and close the center hole, and a transparent layer formed on the signal surface of the signal substrate so as to include at least part of the center substrate,
is described in JP 10-289489 A, with a center hole formed in the blocking sheet to permit clamping (the blocking sheet having a clamping means), therefore claims 1 and 15 in this application involve no novelty nor inventive step.

Although claim 2, claim 3, claim 4, claim 5, claim 6, claim 7, claim 8, claim (continued to extra sheet)

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
 No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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Continuation of Box No. II of continuation of first sheet (1)

9, claim 10, claim 11, claim 12, claim 13, claim 14 respectively refer to claim 1, the claim 1 involves no novelty nor inventive step as stated above and does not constitute a technical feature for respective claims 2-14; therefore no unity of invention is recognized between claim 1 and claims 2-14.

Although claim 16, claim 17, claim 18, claim 19, claim 20, claim 20, claim 21, claim 22, claim 23, claim 24 respectively refer to claim 15, the claim 15 involves no novelty nor inventive step as stated above and does not constitute a technical feature for respective claims 16-24; therefore no unity of invention is recognized between claim 15 and claims 16-24.

Therefore, this international application includes 22 inventions in claims 1, 2 and 15, claim 3, claim 4, claim 5, claim 6, claim 7, claim 8, claim 9, claim 10, claim 11, claim 12, claim 13, claim 14, claim 16, claim 17, claim 18, claim 19, claim 20, claim 21, claim 22, claim 23, claim 24.